

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the addition of new claims 47 and 48 and the cancellation of claims 20, 21, and 29, claims 22 to 28, 30 to 48 are now pending since claims 1 to 19 were previously canceled. It is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim to foreign priority and the indication that all copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper, and cited references.

II. Objections to Specifications

The title of the application was objected to for not being descriptive. Applicants have amended the Title to obviate the present objection with respect to the Title. The Specification was further objected to for an asserted informality. While Applicants do not agree with the merits of this objection (see, e.g., John Rakovan, "Word to the Wise; Epitaxy," 81 Rocks & Minerals 318 (footnote) (July/August 2006)), to facilitate matters, Applicants have amended the Specification to obviate the present objection with respect to this asserted informality.

Withdrawal of the objection to the Specification is therefore respectfully requested.

III. Objection to Claim 36

Claim 36 was objected to for an asserted informality. While Applicants do not agree with the merits of this objection (see, e.g., John Rakovan, "Word to the Wise; Epitaxy," 81 Rocks & Minerals 318 (footnote) (July/August 2006)), to facilitate matters, Applicants have amended claim 36 to obviate the present objection.

Withdrawal of the objection to claim 36 is therefore respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection of Claim 32 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as assertedly indefinite. Although Applicants do not agree with the merits of this rejection, to facilitate matters, Applicants have amended claim 32 without prejudice to obviate the present rejection.

Withdrawal of the present rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 23, 27, 34 to 38, 45, and 46 include allowable subject matter. In this regard, the Examiner will note that each of claims 23, 27, and 34 have been rewritten herein in independent form to include all of the features of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner will further note that each of claims 24, 39, and 40 has been amended to depend from claim 23; each of claims 22, 25, and 28 has been amended to depend from claim 27; and each of claims 30 to 33, 41, and 42 has been amended to depend from claim 34. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 23, 27, and 34 and their respective dependent claims, e.g., claims 24, 39 and 40, claims 22, 25, 26, and 28, and claims 30 to 33, 35 to 38, and 41 to 46, are in condition for immediate allowance.

VI. Remaining Rejected Claims

While Applicants do not agree with the merits of the present rejections, the remaining rejected claims have been canceled herein without prejudice, so as to obviate all the remaining claim rejections.

VII. New Claims 47 and 48

Claims 47 and 48 have been added herein. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 47 and 48 do not add any new matter and are fully supported by the present application, including the Specification. Each of claims 47 and 48 depends from claim 27 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 27.

VIII. Subject Matter of Claims as Previously Presented

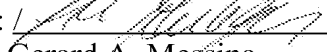
Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

IX. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of presently pending claims 22 to 28, 30 to 48 are allowable. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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